GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1453
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2005
ESTABLISHMENT OF MENTAL HOSPITALS IN RURAL AREAS
Meghwal Shri Kailash

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that more than 5 crore people are suffering from some mental disease in the country;

(b) if so, whether there are only 47 mental hospitals for the treatment of large number of mental patients whereas there are only 3500 psychiatrists working in these hospitals which are lesser than the requirement;

(c) if so, the facts in this regard;

(d) whether the most of these mental hospitals are operating in big cities to the disadvantage of the rural people ;

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to establish mental hospitals in the rural areas also ; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) It is estimated that 5% of the population suffers from various psychological disorders such as depression, neurotics, stress related and adjustment disorders. About 1% of the population suffers from serious mental disorders such as psychotic disorders and 0.5% of the population may be in need of active treatment for serious mental disorder.

(b) & (c) There are 37 Governmental Mental Health Hospitals for the treatment of mental patients and over 3000 qualified psychiatrists, 500 clinical psychologists, 300 psychiatric social workers and about 600 trained psychiatric nurses in the country working in these hospitals.

(d) to (f) The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in promoting mental health care. Efforts of the Government now are to diagnose the mentally ill patients at the early stage and treat them through the general health care delivery system. The focus is on community based mental health care delivery, using appropriately trained primary care physicians. The Government does not, therefore, propose to open any new mental hospital. Adequate medical facilities are available to treat the mentally ill patients. In order to provide increased access and better quality of mental health care, the Government`s National Mental Health Programme during the Tenth Five-Year Plan envisages to expand District Mental Health Programme to cover 100 districts in the country with additional congruent districts, modernise the 37 government medical colleges and also strengthen the psychiatric wings of 75 medical colleges.